

REMARKS

By way of this amendment, the claims call for "a controller for executing a detection operation by said detector during loading and unloading operations of said substrate" (claim 1) and "a carrying step of loading and unloading said substrate" (claim 10). New claim 15 recites "during the loading or unloading of the substrate, testing the discharge head by passing droplets therefrom through a light beam". Basis for these amendment are found throughout the specification including the following text:

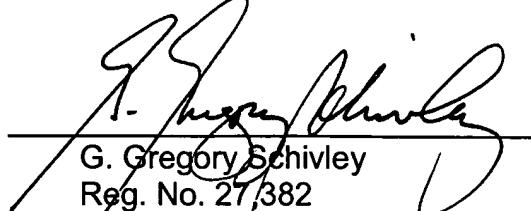
According to the above-mentioned aspects, while carrying the substrate for manufacturing a device, to the stage, that is to say, *while performing the operation of carrying the substrate to and from (loading and unloading) the stage*, the non-performing nozzle detection operation which detects whether or not the droplet is being discharged from the discharge nozzle is performed. Therefore the carrying operation for the substrate and the detection operation for the non-performing nozzle can be carried out in parallel" (on page 3, lines 6 to 12, in the original specification of the present application).

Accordingly, no new matter is entered to currently amended claims 1 and 10 or presented in new claim 15.

It should be noted that testing for proper operation of a discharge head during the loading and unloading of a workpiece is not disclosed or suggested in the prior art. Accordingly, currently amended claims 1 and 10 and new claim 15 should be allowable since each of them includes subject matter which is not disclosed or suggested in citations. In addition, the dependent claims 2 to 6, 8, 9, 11, and 12 also should be allowable due to their dependency on allowable claims 1 and 10.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,



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